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DATA ON AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF EAST CHINA, 1953

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Mu Ma

[Summary: The East China Administrative Area is the second largest food producing region of China. The food crop yields of this area amount to one fourth of total national production. Paddy rice, the most important crop of East China, represents almost one half of the total food production of this region. Cotton, cottonseed oil, and hemp are also important industrial products.]

The East China Administrative Area, which includes Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Chekiang, and Fukien, is an area rich in agricultural resources. The region has an area of over 57 million hectares, and 40 percent of this land, or approximately 23 million hectares, is arable. Arable land by individual provinces is shown in the chart below:

Area of Arable Land in East China (in 10,000 mou)

Shantung	11,900
Kiangsu	7,728
Anhwei	9,230
Chekiang	3,293
Fukien	2,240
Total	34,391

Food Crops

East China is the second largest food producing region (Central-South China is first), and it is estimated that East China food crop yields are about one fourth of the total national production. There are about 30 types of food crops in this region, with fine grains (paddy rice and wheat) constituting about 60 percent and coarse foods (soybeans, mixed grains, and potatoes) about 40 percent. The yields from paddy rice, the most important food crop in East China, represent almost one half of the total food production for this area [years not indicated]. Wheat and potato yields of the East China region are the highest of any administrative area in China with soybeans and mixed grains second and third, respectively. The following chart shows food crop production in the administrative areas and the position which each area occupies in the total national production.

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Comparative Figures of Food Crop Production in the Administrative Areas of China (based on total national production as 100)

	North-east	North	North-west	East	Central-South	South west	Total
Paddy rice	0.7	0.1	0.6	10.8	18,1	9.1	39.4
Wheat	0.4	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.3	1.4	12.3
Soybeans	2.5	0.5	0.1	1.7	0.7	0.3	5.8
Mixed grains	11.1	6.4	2.0	5.6	3.4	4.5	33.0
Potatoes	0	1.3	0.4	2.5	2.4	0.6	7.2
Total	14.7	11.0	5.4	23.8	26.9	15.9	100.0 [sic]

Comparative Figures of Food Crop Production in Administrative Areas of China (based on administrative area total food crop production as 100)

	North-east	North	North-west	East	Central-South	South-west
Paddy rice	4.7	0.9	12.1	45.4	67.3	56.0
Wheat	3.1	24.0	42.8	13.5	8.5	8.7
Soybeans	16.8	4.6	2.2	7.0	2.6	2.1
Mixed grains	75.4	58.0	36.0	23.6	12.5	29.0
Potatoes	--	12.0	6.9	10.5	9.1	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0 [sic]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 [sic]

Comparative Figures of Paddy Rice and Wheat Production in Provinces of East China (based on East China rice or wheat production as 100)

	Paddy Rice	Wheat
Shantung	0.2	43.5
Kiangsu	30.7	23.0
Chekiang	30.8	5.0
Anhwei	22.4	26.0
Fukien	15.4	1.5
Total	100.0 [sic]	100.0 [sic]

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In the past, East China imported 2 billion catties of food annually. In 1951, however, East China became self-sufficient in food production with a surplus for export.

Cotton

The East China Administrative Area produces one fourth of the cotton grown in China. In 1952, the yields of raw cotton in this region were four times that of preliberation days, and production per unit of area was increased 100 percent.

The raw cotton of East China can be divided into three classes according to fiber length. The first class is coarse or short fiber cotton which is further subdivided into ordinary cotton and chichiao [literally, chicken foot] cotton. These two types have a fiber length of about 3/4 inch and can be woven into 10-16 thread cloth. The shortest fiber cotton, such as Chekiang Yu-yao, has a length of only 5/8 inch and can be woven into 6-thread cloth. The short fiber class represents an extremely small portion of East China cotton production. The second class is the "retrograded" type of fine fiber cotton which is about 7/8 inch in length and which can be woven into 20-thread cloth. The third class, fine fiber cotton, is grown in the largest area and in the greatest amount. To this class belong the Ssu-tzu-erh-pi, Wu-ai, Tai-tzu No 15, Te-pao 531, K'o-tzu 100, and other cottons. The fiber length of this class of cotton is from one to 1 1/8 inches and can be woven into 32-60 thread fine cloth.

Cottonseed also has economic significance for it is processed into cottonseed oil both for human consumption and industrial usage. The cottonseed oil produced in East China is sufficient to meet one seventeenth of the food-oil requirements of this region. East China also has an annual output of 960 million catties of cottonseed residue which is used as fertilizer. The nap, or linter, on the husks of the cotton seeds is also used. It can be woven into coarse cloth or used in the manufacture of stationary, phonograph records, plastics, rayon, gun cotton, film, and other articles. In East China, 570,000 piculs of linter are processed annually.

Hemp

Prior to liberation, China was almost entirely dependent on imported hemp to meet its needs. In the past 3 years, China has become self sufficient and is now exporting hemp.

In East China, jute is grown in Kiangsu, Chekiang, and Fukien provinces, and ambari hemp is grown in the Shantung peninsula and the Hangchow area. Jute and ramie are important crops.

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